[N](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/femail/article-2025052/The-competition-meant-enter-How-90-cent-mothers-judge-parents-raise-children.html)

**'The competition nobody meant to enter': How 90 per cent of mothers judge other parents on how they raise their children**

By [TAMARA ABRAHAM FOR MAILONLINE](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/home/search.html?s=&authornamef=Tamara+Abraham+for+MailOnline)    
**UPDATED:** 17:57 EST, 11 August 2011

Every mother has her own opinion on how to best raise a child. Butaccording to a new survey, 90 per cent of women with children admit to casting judgement if they don't agree with a fellow parent's methods.

The poll of 26,000 mothers by Today show and Parenting.com found that they will compete on everything from breastfeeding to discipline. Mothers who didn't try to breastfeed their babies, for example, will be considered badly by one in five other parents, while those who nurse a child for 'too long', will be judged badly by 43 per cent of their peers.

Sixty-six per cent of respondents said they would judge another parent harshly if their child was badly behaved, and 32 per cent if a mother let her kids watch too much television.

Diet was another key issue for parents - 37 per cent said they would judge mothers of an overweight child or those who allowed their children to eat junk food.

Many women who participated in the survey admitted suffering from an inferiority complex when surrounded by other mothers - and guilty for judging fellow parents themselves.

Lacey Davis, a mother in West Virginia, admitted on the Today.com website: 'When I go to other moms' homes I do the quick once-over and pick apart things... Dishes in sink, floors not swept, no sweeper lines in carpet.

'I HATE this about myself because I know if I am doing it, then so is everyone else that comes to MY house!'

And Lawna Hurl, a mother-of-two from Alberta, Canada, says the reason she returned to work was because the pressure of competition among fellow parents was too intense.

She admitted: 'I didn’t like being around other moms because I often felt inferior. It saddens me that among moms there is so much judgment – no matter what you do it seems someone is judging.'

Sara Keeler, a mother of two sons from Gilette, Wyoming, added that she even puts pressure on herself to be perfect.

'It's a competition nobody meant to enter,' she explained. 'We all want to be the best at what we do.

'We consciously and unconsciously compare ourselves, and our children, to every other mother and child we come in contact with.'

Author and parenting expert Wendy Mogel explained that the judgemental habit is a means mothers use to feel better about themselves.

She told the site: 'Mothers are judging themselves and judging others to make themselves feel a little better. We’re all trying to look good, and we want our kids to look good and impress others.'